GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3482
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Chinese Crackers
Sanjar Shri Alok

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imported Chinese Crackers have raised the pollution level in the country alarmingly;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check/ curb the said import;
(c) whether the Government has issued instructions to crackers manufacturing units to manufacture fire crackers producing low level of noise and causing less air pollution;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and?
(e) the policy formulated/ implemented by the Government to control noise and air pollution effectively during the festivals?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) The Government is not aware of any such study to indicate that imported Chinese crackers have raised the pollution level in the country alarmingly. However, bursting of firecrackers is found to raise both noise and air pollution particularly during festivals like Diwali. Available data for 'Pre-Diwali' and 'Diwali-Day' for different cities indicates rise in both noise and air pollution after Diwali.

(b) Import of 'Fireworks' covered under Indian Trade (Harmonised System) classification [(ITC(HS)] code 36041000 is 'restricted' and no one can import fireworks without a licence / authorisation from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

(c) & (d) Manufacturing and sale of harmful fire-crackers come under the purview of Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Nagpur under the Explosives Act, 2008. The PESO has come out with the chemical formulae for 4 types of commonly used sound producing crackers namely Atom bomb, Chinese crackers, maroons and Garland crackers specifying the proportion/composition as well as maximum permissible weight of every chemical used in the manufacture of said fire crackers. It has also directed that every manufacturer shall mention the details of chemical content on the box of each fire cracker vide its order dated 7th March, 2008.

(e) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate has notified Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 for regulation and control of noise pollution. These Rules inter-alia relate to restriction of the use of fire-crackers in addition to loudspeakers, public address systems and sound producing systems during festivals. Further, the other steps taken to control pollution levels inter alia include advisories for noise monitoring on the occasion of Diwali; prohibition of the use of fireworks between 10.00 p.m. and 06.00 a.m.; publicity regarding the ill effects of fire-crackers and awareness programme to avoid bursting of fire-crackers etc.

Ministry has notified the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for regulation and control of air pollution. Further, Government has taken a number of measures for control of air pollution in the country which, inter alia, include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); notification and revision of emission and effluent standards for various industrial sectors; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; launching of National Air Quality Index; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance, notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 comprising action points to counter air pollution in major cities including control and mitigation measures related to vehicular emissions, re-suspension of road dust and other fugitive emissions, bio-mass/municipal solid waste burning, industrial pollution, construction and demolition activities, and other general steps; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; and notification of graded response action plan for Delhi and NCR etc.

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